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11 October 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Project TAGBOARD - Status

1. Project TAGBOARD is associated with and is an outgrowth of Project OXCART.
2. The objective of this program is to allow the U.S. Government some degree of latitude in the selection of a reconnaissance vehicle to do the task as the political atmosphere dictates at any given time.
3. The TAGBOARD system entails a utilization of 20 drones and two A-12 (OXCART) aircraft modified for drone carrier operation. The drone is a Mach 3.3 vehicle employing a Marquardt ramjet engine with a guidance system somewhat similar to the A-12 and a camera package produced by Hycon Manufacturers. Estimated photo resolution is in the 2 to 3 foot category. During operation of the drone, the camera and guidance system will be ejected from the drone following mission completion and air-snatched by recovering aircraft. The ramjet engine is basically the one presently employed in the Bomarc missile with little additional development or modification required. The recovery techniques are those developed for the Discoverer series.
4. Tests of launch aircraft and drone are scheduled for the last quarter of Fiscal Year 1964.

cc: EXO/NRO
DD/NRO
Compt/NRO

NRO review(s) completed.

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